

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-21, and 35-37 are pending. Claims 2 and 22-34 were previously canceled, and claim 14 is cancelled herein. Claims 1, 3, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 35, and 36 are amended. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that claim 14 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In fulfillment of Applicant's obligation under 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant hereby asserts that the subject matter of all of the claims of the present application was commonly owned, assigned, or under a duty of common assignment at the time the invention was made.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 15-21 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that "[c]laims 15 and 35 contain the new matter limitations as to the elastic modulus of the composition layer and body layer" (page 2 of February 7, 2006 Office action). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, and 35. Based on the amendment of these claims, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 15-21 and 35-37 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

1. Chau et al. in view of Stamm

Claims 15-18, 20, 21, and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,735,988 to Chau et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,712,706 to Stamm.

Applicant has amended independent claims 15 and 35 to include the element(s) of claim 14, which the Examiner deemed allowable. Thus applicant believes that amended claims 15 and 35 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 16-18, 20, 21, 36, and 37 each add additional features to amended independent claims 15 and 35. Amended claims 15 and 35 are patentable for the

reasons given above. Thus, applicant believes that claims 16-18, 20, 21, 36, and 37 are likewise patentable.

2. Chau in view of Stamm and further in view of JP 042096876 or JP 08157793

Claims 1, 3-13, and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chau et al. in view of Stamm and further in view of either of JP 042096876 or JP 08157793. The Examiner admits that Chau et al. and Stamm fails to describe a pressure-sensitive acrylic based epoxy adhesive but asserts that “JP 042096876 or JP 08157793 specifically note acrylic based epoxy adhesives are pressure-sensitive” (page 5).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 15 to include the element(s) of claim 14, which the Examiner deemed allowable. Thus applicant believes that amended claims 1 and 15 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 3-13 and 19 each add additional features to amended independent claims 1 and 15. Amended claims 1 and 15 are patentable for the reasons given above. Thus, applicant believes that claims 3-13 and 19 are likewise patentable.

3. Rowland in view of Rowland in view of Stamm

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-21, and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,376,431 to Rowland or U.S. Patent No. 3,810,804 to Rowland in view of Stamm.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, and 35 to include the element(s) of claim 14, which the Examiner deemed allowable. Thus applicant believes that amended claims 1, 15, and 35 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 3-13, 16-21, and 36-37 each add additional features to amended independent claims 1, 15, and 35. Amended claims 1, 15, and 35 are patentable for the reasons given above. Thus, applicant believes that claims 3-13, 16-21, and 36-37 are likewise patentable.

Applicant believes that the rejection of claims 1, 3-13, 15-21, and 35-37 under 35 USC § 103(a) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

May 18, 2006

Date

By: /Sandra K. Szczerbicki/

Sandra K. Szczerbicki, Reg. No.: 53,666

Telephone No.: 651-733-1543

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833